

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A waste toner collecting device comprising:

a container being which is detachably set in an image forming apparatus, containing and contains therein a waste toner produced in the image forming apparatus, and having which has such a shape configured as to fit into a free space of the image forming apparatus; and

a waste toner transport device configured to transport which transports the waste toner in the container, wherein the waste toner transport device transports the waste toner in the container in a direction from a region of the container having a shortest height toward a region thereof having a tallest height.

2. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 1, wherein a one of surfaces-surface of the container is opposed to a surface of a member of the image forming apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 2, wherein the member is a slantedly arranged cleaning unit comprising a plurality of which includes plural cleaners and which is slantingly arranged, and a surface wherein the one of surfaces of the container is slanted in a same direction as that of the slantedly arranged cleaning unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 3, wherein the surface one of surfaces of the container is slanted at substantially a same angle as that of the slantedly arranged cleaning unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 3, wherein the container further comprises at least one opening or more openings which are

connected with the cleaning unit via at least one waste toner feeding passage of the image forming apparatus.

6. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 5, wherein the at least one opening of the one or more openings is located at a highest position of the container.

7. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 5, wherein the container has a plurality of plural openings, and wherein the plural openings are arranged at regular intervals.

8. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 5, wherein the at least one opening is or more openings are arranged on the slanted surface or a side surface of the container.

9. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 5, wherein the at least one opening has or more openings have an area greater than an area of a cross section of the at least one waste toner feeding passage.

10. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 3, wherein the waste toner transport device comprises:

at least one waste toner transporter which is arranged in the container to transport and which transports the waste toner in the container; and

a driving device configured to drive the waste toner transporter.

11. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 10 Claim 1, wherein the at least one waste toner transporter is configured to transport the waste

toner in such a direction that the waste toner is distanced from the at least one opening or more openings.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to Claim claim 10, wherein the waste toner transport device includes a plurality of plural waste toner transporters in the container.

14. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 10, wherein the at least one waste toner transporter comprises at least one of a screw, a plurality of screws, a partially threaded screw, and a belt.

15. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 14, wherein the at least one waste toner transporter is located below the at least one opening or more openings.

16. (Currently Amended) A waste toner collecting device comprising:
a container being detachably set in an image forming apparatus, containing therein a waste toner produced in the image forming apparatus, and having a shape configured to fit into a free space of the image forming apparatus; and
a waste toner transport device configured to transport the waste toner in the container,
The waste toner collecting device according to Claim 12, wherein the waste toner transport device transporter has a different transporting capacity in each portion of the container such that the transporting capacity is inversely proportional to a height of the portion of the container.

17. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 10, wherein the driving device comprises:

a driving motor; and

a drive force transmitting device configured to transmit a driving force of the driving motor to the at least one waste toner transporter.

18. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 17, wherein the drive force transmitting device comprises either a group of gears including comprising a spur gear or another group of gears including a bevel gear, and wherein the spur gear or the bevel gear is provided on an end of the at least one waste toner transporter.

19. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 1, wherein the container comprises a support member on a bottom surface thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) The waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 3, wherein the container comprises a waste toner containing a portion that therein, which does not have a slanted surface.

21. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus apparatus, comprising:
an image bearing member;
a cleaning device configured to collect a residual toner present on the image bearing member; and
the waste toner collecting device according to claim Claim 1.

22. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member;
a cleaning device configured to collect a residual toner present on the image bearing member; and

the waste toner collecting device according to claim 16.

23. (New) A waste toner collecting device, comprising:

a container being detachably set in an image forming apparatus, and having a shape configured to fit into a free space of the image forming apparatus, the container comprising a slanted surface with an opening for the passage of waste toner and a substantially vertical surface; and

a waste toner transport device configured to transport the waste toner in the container in a direction from a region of the container having a tallest height toward a region thereof having a shortest height, wherein the opening is located in a region where the slanted surface meets the substantially vertical surface, the region defining the tallest height of the container.

24. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 23, wherein a surface of the container is opposed to a surface of a member of the image forming apparatus.

25. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 24, wherein the member is a slantedly arranged cleaning unit comprising a cleaner, and a surface of the container is slanted in a same direction as that of the slantedly arranged cleaning unit.

26. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 25, wherein the surface of the container is slanted at substantially a same angle as that of the slantedly arranged cleaning unit.

27. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 25, wherein the slantedly arranged cleaning unit comprises a plurality of cleaners, and the container has a plurality of openings arranged at regular intervals.

28. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 27, wherein at least one opening of the plurality of openings is arranged on the slanted surface or a side surface of the container.

29. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 27, wherein at least one opening of the plurality of openings has an area greater than an area of a cross section of a feeding passage connecting at least one opening of the plurality of openings and the slantedly arranged cleaning unit.

30. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 25, wherein the waste toner transport device comprises:

at least one waste toner transporter arranged in the container to transport the waste toner in the container; and

a driving device configured to drive the waste toner transporter.

31. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 30, wherein the at least one waste toner transporter is configured to transport the waste toner in such a direction that the waste toner is distanced from the at least one opening.

32. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 30, wherein the waste toner transport device includes a plurality of waste toner transporters in the container.

33. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 30, wherein the at least one waste toner transporter comprises a screw.

34. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 33, wherein the at least one waste toner transporter comprises, a plurality of screws.

35. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 30, wherein the at least one waste toner transporter comprises a partially threaded screw.

36. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 30, wherein the at least one waste toner transporter comprises a belt.

37. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 36, wherein the at least one waste toner transporter is located below the opening.

38. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 30, wherein the driving device comprises:

a driving motor; and
a drive force transmitting device configured to transmit a driving force of the driving motor to the at least one waste toner transporter.

39. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 38, wherein the drive force transmitting device comprises either a group of gears comprising a spur gear or another group of gears including a bevel gear, and wherein the spur gear or the bevel gear is provided on an end of the at least one waste toner transporter.

40. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 23, wherein the container comprises a support member on a bottom surface thereof.

41. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 23, wherein the container comprises a waste toner containing a portion that does not have a slanted surface.

42. (New) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image bearing member;

a cleaning device configured to collect a residual toner present on the image bearing member; and

the waste toner collecting device according to claim 23.

43. (New) The waste toner collecting device according to claim 23, wherein the waste toner transport device has a different transporting capacity in each portion of the container such that the transporting capacity is inversely proportional to a height of the portion of the container.